Persian Tiles

Crochet Blanket

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In 2013 I designed a project for my crochet club using Persian and Moroccan textiles and architecture as my inspiration. The project was exclusive to my crochet club members so is no longer available, but it is a theme I have wanted to return to for a long time as the colours and shapes worked so well in crochet and we are constantly asked for a project that echoes the original design.

This project is far simpler in construction than the original crochet club project and there are just four different motifs within the design; the main octagon piece, of which you need to make 16, is surrounded by variations on granny squares and triangles in shades of blue and cream. The project is relatively simple to make and I really enjoyed designing it.

Measurement

Blocked measurement:
115cm (45in) square

Materials

Persian Tiles is written for Stylecraft Life DK in the shades given below. An alternative colour palette is suggested if you prefer to use Stylecraft Special DK but you will need to write the alternative shade names into the pattern text.

Sample shown in Stylecraft Life DK
298m (325yds) per 100g ball

Copper (2312)	1 ball
Daffodil (2394)	1 ball
Cardinal (2306)	1 ball
Aqua (2357)	1 ball
Teal (2416)	2 balls
Cream (2305)	2 balls
Navy (2313)	4 balls

Alternative yarn: Stylecraft Special DK 295m (322yds) per 100g ball

Spice (1711)	1 ball
Saffron (1081)	1 ball
Claret (1123)	1 ball
Turquoise (1068)	2 balls
Petrol (1708)	2 balls
Cream (1005)	2 balls
Midnight (1011)	4 balls

Equipment

3.5mm (US E/4), 4mm (US G/6) and 4.5mm (US 7) crochet hooks
Locking stitch markers
Knitter's sewing needle

Pattern Notes

This pattern is written using UK terminology – use the chart below for the US equivalents:

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble crochet	htr	half double crochet	hdc
treble crochet	tr	double crochet	dc
double treble crochet	dtr	treble crochet	tr

Fastening off and re-joining yarn
You will achieve a much neater colour change if you complete rounds and fasten off the yarn, rather than joining the new colour mid-stitch. When fastening off a yarn at the end of a round, the slip stitch made to do the join can look like a stitch when working the following round, so take care to count correctly and do not count the slip stitch as a stitch when working subsequent rounds.

Dealing with yarn ends
Sewing yarn ends in as you go along makes the finishing process much easier and means that you are less likely to lose stitches or make errors with tension.

Tension
Double Crochet using **4mm hook** = 22 sts and 20 rows to 10cm (4in)

Treble Crochet using **3.5mm hook** = 22 sts and 10 rows to 10cm (4in)

Instructions

Octagon Motif (make 16)

Using **Copper** and **4mm hook** make 5ch, join with a ss to form a ring.

Working with the Right Side facing throughout:

ROUND 1: 5ch (counts as 1tr and 2ch), [1tr into ring, 2ch] 7 times, ss to third ch of 5ch at beginning of round to join, fasten off. *(8tr and 8 ch-sps)*

ROUND 2: Using **Daffodil,** join yarn into any ch-sp by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 3dc into same ch-sp, 3dc into each ch-sp to end, ss to join, fasten off. *(24 sts)*

ROUND 3: Using **Cardinal,** join yarn into any st in line with the top of a tr made on previous round by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into st at base of 1ch, 1dc into next st, 2dc into next st, ✻ 1dc into each next 2 sts, 2dc into next st; repeat from ✻ to end, ss to join, fasten off. *(32 sts)*

ROUND 4: Using **Navy,** join yarn into any st in line with the top of a tr made on Round 1 by working 1ch + 3ch (counts as 1dtr), 3dtr into same st, 7ch, skip 3 sts, ✻ 4dtr into next st (this is the st in line with the next tr made on Round 1), 7ch, skip 3 sts; repeat from ✻ to end, ss to fourth ch of 4ch at beginning of round to join, fasten off. *(8 groups of 4dtr made with 7 ch-sps between)*

ROUND 5: Using **Teal,** join yarn into top of first dtr of any 4dtr-group made on previous round by working 1ch + 3ch (counts as 1dtr), dtr3tog over next 3 sts (counts as dtr4tog), ✻ 5ch, 1dc into next ch-sp, 5ch, dtr4tog over next 4 sts; repeat from ✻ a further 6 times, 5ch, 1dc into next ch-sp, 5ch, ss to top of first dtr4tog to join, fasten off. *(8 groups of dtr4tog and 16 ch-sps made)*

ROUND 6: Using **Copper,** join yarn into ch-sp after any dtr4tog-group by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 6dc into same ch-sp, ✻ dc2tog over 2ch-sps by working one incomplete dc into same ch-sp and one into next ch-sp, 6dc into same ch-sp, 1ch, 6dc into next ch-sp; repeat from ✻ a further 6 times, dc2tog over 2ch-sps by working one incomplete dc into same ch-sp and one into next ch-sp, 6dc into same ch-sp, 1ch, ss to join, fasten off.

Place a marker into any 1ch-space made on Round 6.

ROUND 7: Using **Daffodil,** join yarn into top of second dc of the 6dc-group made to the left of the marker by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, 1dc into each next 3 sts, ✻ 4ch, skip 4 sts, 1dc into each next 4 sts, 3ch, skip 1ch and 1dc, 1dc into each next 4 sts; repeat from ✻ 6 times, 4ch, skip 4 sts, 1dc into each next 4 sts, 3ch, skip 1ch and 1dc, ss to join, fasten off and remove marker. *(8 4ch-sps and 8 3ch-sps with 4dc in between each ch-sp)*

Measurement: 15cm (6in) at widest point.

Change to **3.5mm hook**.
On the next round you need to work a fan into each of the eight 4ch-sps made on the previous round – make them in alternating yarn shades as follows:

Fan A

FAN ROW 1 (RS FACING): Using **Copper** and **3.5mm hook**, join yarn into any 4ch-sp by working 1ch, ✻✻ 2ch, (counts as 1htr and 1ch), [1tr into same ch-sp, 1ch] 6 times, 1htr into same ch-sp *(7 ch-sps made)*, turn.

FAN ROW 2 (WS FACING): 4ch (counts as 1htr and 2ch), [1tr into next st, 2ch] 6 times, 1htr into second ch of 3ch at beginning of last row, fasten off, turn. *(7 ch-sps made)*

Fan B

(RS FACING): Using **Cardinal** and **3.5mm hook**, skip the next 3ch-sp, join yarn into next 4ch-sp by working 1ch, and work as for Fan A from ✻✻ in Fan Row 1 to end of Fan Row 2.

Sew in joining yarn tails.

Continue as set, working the 2-fan repeat until 8 fans are complete.

ROUND 8: Using **Aqua** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into any 3ch-sp made on Round 7 (Daffodil) by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same ch-sp, ✻ 1dc into top of first htr of next fan, [3dc into next ch-sp] 3 times, 4dc into next ch-sp, [3dc into next ch-sp] 3 times, 1dc into second ch of 4ch made at beginning of Fan Row 2 (you will probably have covered 2ch up by working 3dc already), 1dc into next 3ch-sp made on Round 7 (Daffodil); repeat from ✻ to end, omitting last dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(Each fan has a total of 24 sts with 1dc between each fan – total st count = 200 sts)*

ROUND 9: Using **Teal,** join yarn into top of third dc of any 4dc-group made on previous round by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 3dc into same st, ✻ 1dc into each next 10 sts, skip 4 sts, 1dc into each next 10 sts, 3dc into next st (this is the top of the third dc of the next 4dc-group); repeat from ✻ to end, omitting last 3dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(184 sts)*

ROUND 10: Using **Navy,** join yarn into top of central dc of any 3dc-group made on previous round by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, place marker into st just made, ✻ 1dc into each next 10 sts, skip 2 sts, 1dc into each next 10 sts, 1dc into next st (this is the top of the central dc of the next 3dc-group), place marker into st just made; repeat from ✻ to end, omitting last dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(168 sts)*

ROUND 11: Using **Cream** join yarn into top of any marked st made on previous round by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 3dc into same st, ✻ 1dc into each next 9 sts, skip 2 sts, 1dc into each next 9 sts, 3dc into next st (this is a marked st); repeat from ✻ to end, omitting last 3dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off leaving stitch markers in place if desired. *(168 sts)*

Change to **3.5mm hook.**

ROUND 12: Using **Navy** and **3.5mm hook**, join yarn into top of central dc of any 3dc-group made on previous round by working 1ch (does not count as a st) 1dc into st at base of 1ch, place marker into st just made, ✻ 1dc into each next 2 sts, 1htr into each next 2 sts, 1tr into each next 3 sts, 1dtr into next st, [dtr2tog over next 2 sts] twice, 1dtr into next st, 1tr into each next 3 sts, 1htr into each next 2 sts, 1dc into each next 3 sts, place marker into st just made; repeat from ✻ to end, omitting last dc on final pattern repeat, fasten off. *(152 sts)*

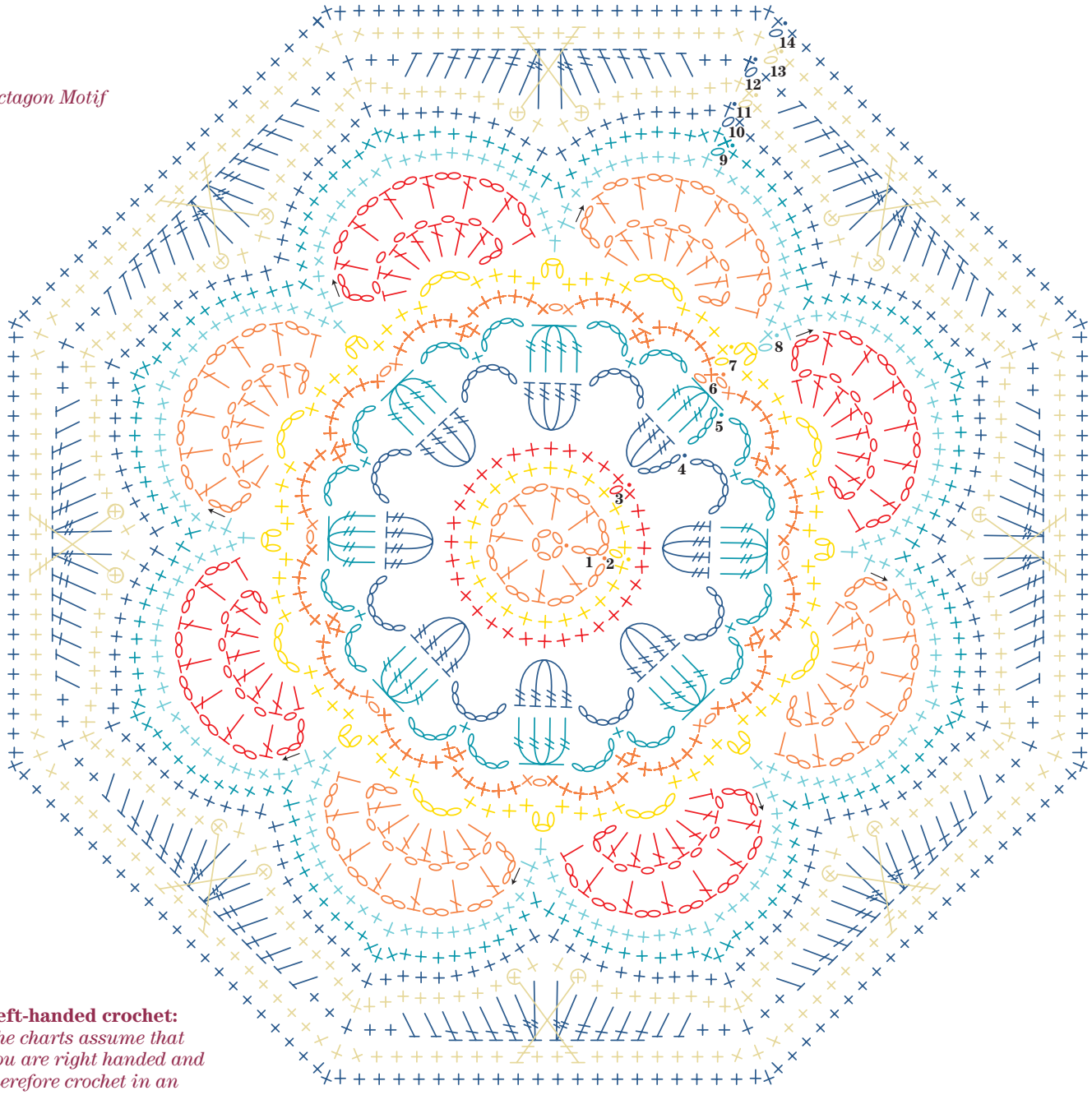
Measurement: 27cm (10½in) from widest point to opposite point.

On the next round you need to work around the post of 2 stitches made on Round 11. The image below shows the 2 stitches. It is a good idea to place markers into these stitches to help you.

Change to **4mm hook.**

ROUND 13: Using **Cream** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into any marked corner st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 3dc into same st, ✻ 1dc into each next 7 sts, working in front of the previous round, work 1dtr around post of second marked st on Round 11, skip next st, 1dc into each next 2 sts, working in front of the previous round, 1dtr around post of remaining marked st on Round 11, skip next st, 1dc into each next 7 sts, 3dc into next marked st; repeat from ✻ to end, omitting last 3dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(168 sts)*

Octagon Motif



Left-handed crochet:
The charts assume that you are right handed and therefore crochet in an anticlockwise direction.
If you crochet left handed and therefore crochet in a clockwise direction you need to work from a chart which is a mirror image of the one in the pattern.

If you hold a mirror so that it reflects the pattern and then use your phone or camera to take an image from the reflection you will have a correctly transposed chart.

Key

- **ss**
- **ch**
- **dc**
- **htr**
- **tr**
- **dtr3tog**
- **dtr4tog**
- **dtr**
- **dtr2tog**
- **dtr around indicated st post from front to back to front**

Place marker into central dc of each 3dc-group made at corners, counting 20 sts between each marker.

ROUND 14: Using **Navy,** join yarn into any marked st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 3dc into same st, ✻ 1dc into each next 20 sts, 3dc into next marked st; repeat from ✻ to end, omitting last 3dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(184 sts)*

Place marker into central dc of each 3dc-group made at corners, counting 22 sts between each marker.

Measurement: 28.5cm (11¼in) from widest point to opposite point.

Sew in all ends.
Block and press.

Blocked measurement: 29cm (11½in) from widest point to opposite point.

Persian Granny Square (make 9)

Using **Navy** and **3.5mm hook** make 5ch, join with a ss to form a ring.

ROUND 1 (RS FACING): 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr into ring, 3ch, [3tr into ring, 3ch] 3 times, ss to third ch of 3ch at beginning of round to join, fasten off. *(12tr and 4 ch-sps)*

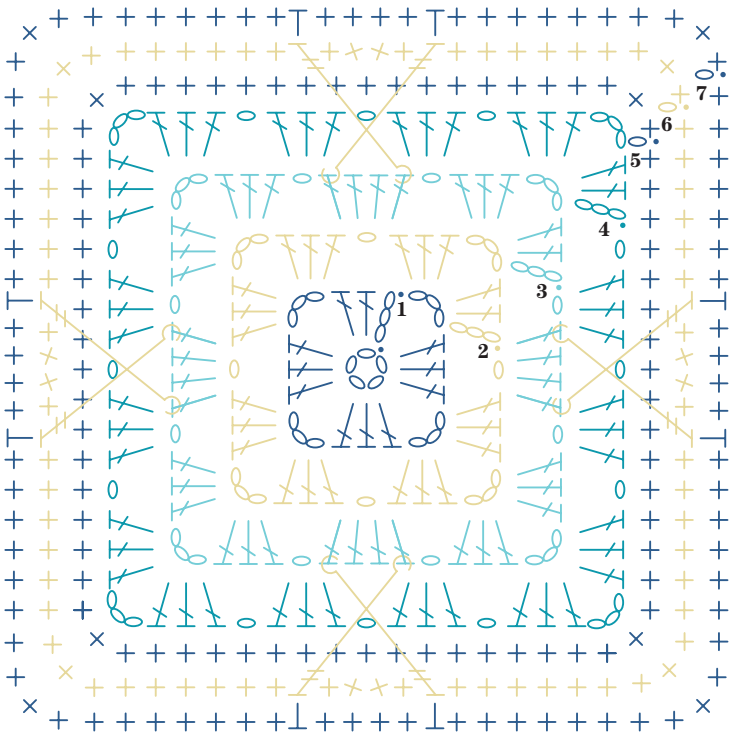
ROUND 2 (RS FACING): Using **Cream,** join yarn into any ch-sp by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1tr), [2tr, 3ch, 3tr] into same ch-sp, ✻ 1ch, [3tr, 3ch, 3tr] into next ch-sp; repeat from ✻ twice more, 1ch, ss to third ch of 3ch at beginning of round to join, fasten off. *(24tr and 4 ch-sps)*

ROUND 3 (RS FACING): Using **Aqua,** join yarn into any 3ch-sp by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1tr), [2tr, 3ch, 3tr] into same ch-sp, ✻ 1ch, 4tr into next ch-sp, 1ch, [3tr, 3ch, 3tr] into next ch-sp; repeat from ✻ twice more, 1ch, 4tr into next ch-sp, 1ch, ss to third ch of 3ch at beginning of round to join, fasten off. *(40tr and 12 ch-sps)*

ROUND 4 (RS FACING): Using **Teal,** join yarn into any 3ch-sp by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1tr), [2tr, 3ch, 3tr] into same ch-sp, ✻ 1ch, [3tr into next ch-sp, 1ch] twice, [3tr, 3ch, 3tr] into next ch-sp; repeat from ✻ twice more, 1ch, [3tr into next ch-sp, 1ch] twice, ss to third ch of 3ch at beginning of round to join, fasten off. *(48tr and 16 ch-sps)*

ROUND 5 (RS FACING): Using **Navy** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into any 3ch-sp by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 3dc into same ch-sp, ✻ [1dc into each next 3 sts, 1dc into next ch-sp] 4 times, 2dc into same ch-sp; repeat from ✻ twice more, [1dc into each next 3 sts, 1dc into next ch-sp] 3 times, 1dc into each next 3 sts, ss to join, fasten off. *(72 sts)*

ROUND 6 (RS FACING): Using **Cream** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into dc at centre of any 3dc-group made at a corner on the previous round by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 3dc into same st, ✻ 1dc into each next 6 sts, working in front of the previous 2 rounds, 1dtr around post of fourth tr of 4tr-group made on Round 3, skip next st, 1dc into next st, 2dc into next st, 1dc into next st, working in front of the previous 2 rounds, 1dtr around post of first tr of 4tr-group made on Round 3, skip next st, 1dc into each next 6 sts, 3dc into next st; repeat from ✻ to end, omitting last 3dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(84 sts)*



Persian Granny Square

ROUND 7 (RS FACING): Using **Navy** and **4mm hook** join yarn into dc at centre of any 3dc-group made at a corner on the previous round by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 3dc into same st, ✻ 1dc into each next 7 sts, 1htr into next st, 1dc into each next 4 sts, 1htr into next st, 1dc into each next 7 sts, 3dc into next st (this is the centre st of 3dc-group); repeat from ✻ to end, omitting last 3dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(92 sts)*

Place marker into central dc of each 3dc-group made at corners, counting 22 sts between each marker.

Measurement: 10.5cm (4¼in) square

Sew in all ends.
Block and press.

Blocked measurement:
11.5cm (4½in) square.

Large Persian Granny Triangle (make 12)

Using Navy and **3.5mm hook** make 4ch, join with a ss to form a ring.

ROW 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr) 3tr into ring, 3ch 4tr into ring, fasten off, do not turn. *(8tr and 1 ch-sp)*

ROW 2 (RS FACING): Using **Cream,** join yarn into third ch of 3ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1tr), 3tr into same ch, 1ch [3tr, 3ch, 3tr] into next ch-sp, 1ch, skip 3tr, 4tr into top of last tr made on previous row, fasten off, do not turn. *(14tr and 1 ch-sp)*

ROW 3 (RS FACING): Using **Aqua,** join yarn into third ch of 3ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1tr), 3tr into same ch, 1ch, 4tr into next ch-sp, 1ch [3tr, 3ch, 3tr] into next ch-sp, 1ch, 4tr into next ch-sp, 1ch, skip 3tr, 4tr into top of last tr made on previous row, fasten off, do not turn. *(22tr and 5 ch-sps)*

ROW 4 (RS FACING): Using **Teal,** join yarn into third ch of 3ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1tr), 3tr into same ch, 1ch, [3tr into next ch-sp, 1ch] twice, [3tr, 3ch, 3tr] into next ch-sp, 1ch, [3tr into next ch-sp, 1ch] twice, 4tr into top of last tr made on previous row, fasten off, do not turn. *(26tr and 7 ch-sps)*

ROW 5 (RS FACING): Using **Navy** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into third ch of 3ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 2dc into ch at base of 1ch, [1dc into each next 3 sts, 1dc into next ch-sp] 4 times, 2dc into same ch-sp, [1dc into each next 3 sts, 1dc into next ch-sp] 3 times, 1dc into each next 3 sts, 2dc into next st, fasten off, do not turn. *(37 sts)*

ROW 6 (RS FACING): Using **Cream** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into first dc made at beginning of last row by working 1ch + 1ch (counts as 1htr), 1htr into st at base of 2ch, ✻ 1dc into each next 6 sts, working in front of the previous 2 rounds, 1dtr around post of fourth tr of 4tr-group made on Round 3, skip next st, 1dc into next st, 2dc into next st, 1dc into next st, working in front of the previous 2 rounds, 1dtr around post of first tr of 4tr-group made on Round 3, skip next st, 1dc into each next 6 sts ✻✻, 3dc into next st; repeat from ✻ to ✻✻, 2htr into next st, fasten off. *(43 sts)*

ROW 7 (RS FACING): Using **Navy** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into second ch of 2ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch + 1ch (counts as 1htr), 1htr into ch at base of 2ch, ✻ 1dc into each next 7 sts, 1htr into next st, 1dc into each next 4 sts, 1htr into next st, 1dc into each next 7 sts ✻✻, 3dc into next st (this is the centre st of 3dc-group); repeat from ✻ to ✻✻, 2htr into next st, fasten off. *(47 sts)*

Place marker into first and last st of last row and central dc of 3dc-group made at corner, counting 22 sts between each marker.

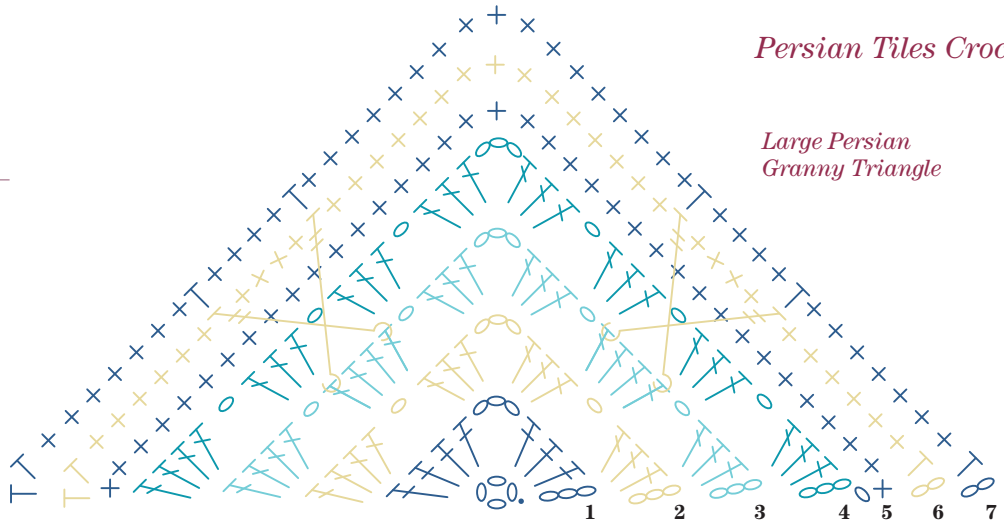
Measurement: 14.5cm (5¾in) from widest point to opposite point and 7.5cm (3in) deep.

Sew in all ends.
Block and press.

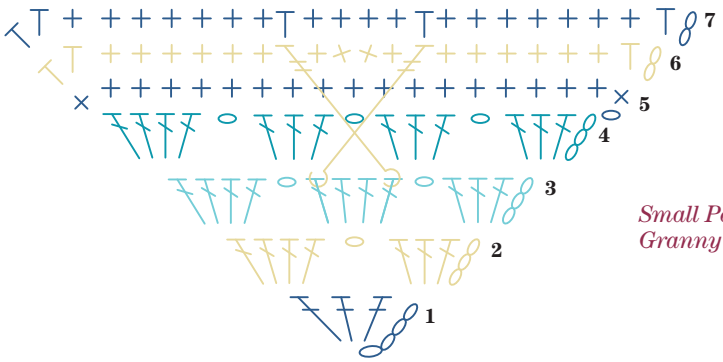
Blocked measurement: 15cm (6in) from widest point to opposite point and 7.5cm (3in) deep.

Key

- • **ss**
- o **ch**
- \+ **dc**
- T **htr**
- ŧ **tr**
- ŧ **dtr around indicated st post from front to back to front**



Large Persian Granny Triangle



Small Persian Granny Triangle

Small Persian Granny Triangle (make 4 corners)

Using **Navy** and **3.5mm hook** make 4ch (counts as 1ch and 1tr).

ROW 1: Skip 3ch, 3tr into next ch, fasten off, do not turn. *(4tr)*

ROW 2 (RS FACING): Using **Cream,** join yarn into third ch of 4ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1tr), 3tr into same ch, 1ch, 4tr into top of last tr made on previous row, fasten off, do not turn.
(8tr and 1 ch-sp)

ROW 3 (RS FACING): Using **Aqua,** join yarn into third ch of 3ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch, 2ch (counts as 1tr), 3tr into same ch, 1ch, 4tr into next ch-sp, 1ch, 4tr into top of last tr made on previous row, fasten off, do not turn. *(12tr and 2 ch-sps)*

ROW 4 (RS FACING): Using **Teal,** join yarn into third ch of 3ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1tr), 3tr into same ch, 1ch, [3tr into next ch-sp, 1ch] twice, 4tr into top of last tr made on previous row, fasten off, do not turn. *(14tr and 3 ch-sps)*

ROW 5 (RS FACING): Using **Navy** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into third ch of 3ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch, (does not count as a st), 2dc into ch at base of 1ch, [1dc into each next 3 sts, 1dc into next ch-sp] 3 times, 1dc into each next 3 sts, 2dc into next st, fasten off, do not turn. *(19 sts)*

ROW 6 (RS FACING): Using **Cream** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into first dc made at beginning of last row by working 1ch + 1ch (counts as 1htr), 1htr into st at base of 2ch, 1dc into each next 6 sts, working in front of the previous 2 rounds, 1dtr around post of fourth tr of 4tr-group made on Round 3, skip next st, 1dc into next st, 2dc into next st, 1dc into next st, working in front of the previous 2 rounds, 1dtr around post of first tr of 4tr-group made on Round 3, skip next st, 1dc into each next 6 sts, 2htr into next st, fasten off, do not turn. *(22 sts)*

ROW 7 (RS FACING): Using **Navy** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into second ch of 2ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch + 1ch (counts as 1htr), 1htr into ch at base of 2ch, 1dc into each next 7 sts, 1htr into next st, 1dc into each next 4 sts, 1htr into next st, 1dc into each next 7 sts, 2htr into next st, fasten off. *(24 sts)*
Place marker into first and last st of last row, counting 22 sts between each marker.

Measurement: 11cm (4¼in) from widest point to opposite point and 5.5cm (2¼in) deep.

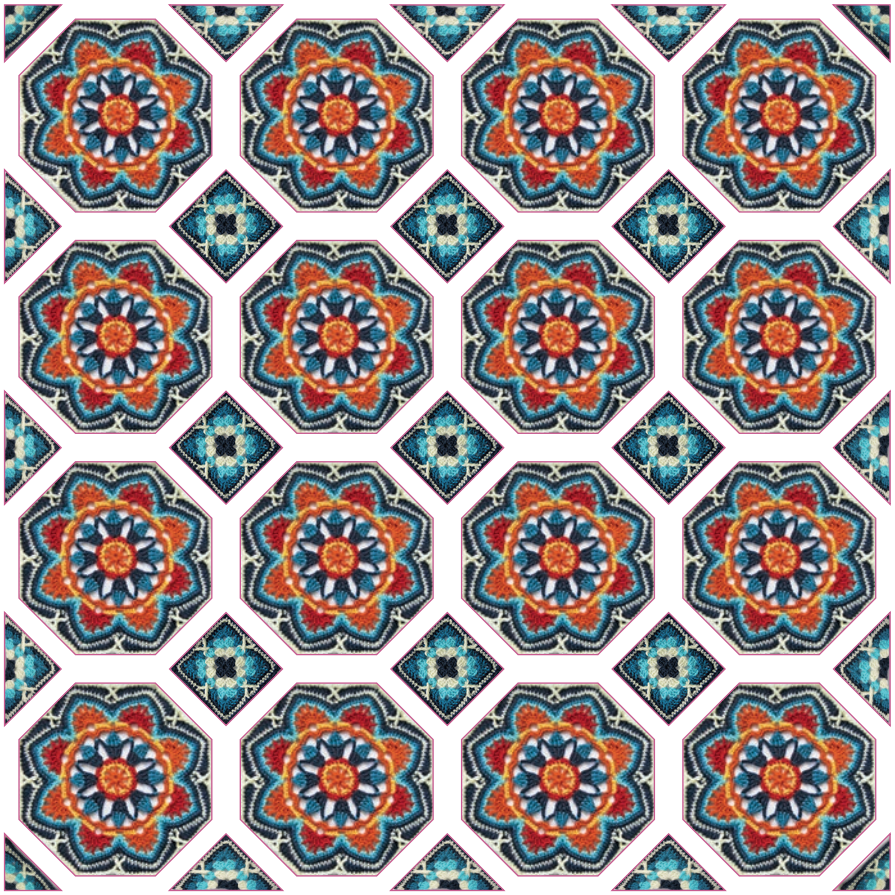
Sew in all ends.
Block and press.

Blocked measurement: 11.5cm (4½in) from widest point to opposite point and 5.5cm (2¼in) deep.

Making Up

Using the image below as a guide, lay pieces out in the correct order, making sure that the Octagon Motifs all lay the same way in respect of the fans made after Round 7.

Using **Navy, 4.5mm hook** and working on the reverse side of the work, join all blocks using double crochet, making sure all marked sts are joined at corners, taking note that marked sts could be used up to 3 times in the joining up process.



Key

Sixteen Octagon motifs.

Nine Persian Granny Square motifs.

Twelve Large Persian Granny Triangle motifs.

Four Small Persian Granny Triangle motifs.

Edging

Once the pieces are put together you will probably have uneven blanket edges as the triangular pieces sit slightly proud of the Octagon Motif edges. To make an even edge you need to work a round of stitches before working the edging as follows:

ROUND 1 (RS FACING): Using **Navy** and **3.5mm hook**, join yarn into a corner st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, mark last st, ✻ 11dc along side edge of triangle, 2dc into join, [22htr along side edge of Octagon Motif, 2dc into join, 23dc along side edge of next triangle, 2dc into join] 3 times, 22htr along side edge of Octagon Motif, 2dc into join, 11dc along side edge of next triangle, 1dc into corner st, mark last st; repeat from ✻ to end, omitting final dc into corner st on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(784 sts total; 195 sts between each of the 4 marked corner sts)*

ROUND 2 (RS FACING): Using **Aqua** and **3.5mm hook**, join yarn into any marked corner st by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr into same st, 3ch, 3tr into same st, ✻ [1ch, skip 3 sts, 3tr into next st] to next marked st, 1ch, ✻✻ skip 3 sts, 3tr into marked st, 3ch, 3tr into same st; repeat from ✻ to end, omitting corner-group on final pattern repeat and so ending at ✻✻, ss to join, fasten off. *(50 blocks of 3tr along each side = 200 blocks of 3tr)*

ROUND 3 (RS FACING): Using **Teal** and **3.5mm hook**, join yarn into any 3ch corner sp by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr into same sp, 3ch, 3tr into same sp, ✻ [1ch, skip 3 sts, 3tr into next ch-sp] to next 3ch-sp, 1ch, ✻✻ skip 3 sts, 3tr into 3ch-sp, 3ch, 3tr into same sp; repeat from ✻ to end, omitting corner-group on final pattern repeat and so ending at ✻✻, ss to join, fasten off. *(51 blocks of 3tr along each side = 204 blocks of 3tr)*

ROUND 4 (RS FACING): Using **Navy** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into any 3ch corner sp by working 1ch (does not count as st), 3dc into same ch-sp, ✻ 1dc into each next 3 sts, [1dc into next ch-sp, 1dc into each next 3 sts] to next 3ch-sp, 3dc into 3ch-sp; repeat from ✻ to end, omitting 3dc-corner-group on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(824 sts)*

ROUND 5 (RS FACING): Using **Cream** and **4mm hook**, join yarn into central dc of any 3dc-group made at corner by working 1ch, 3dc into same st, ✻ 1dc into each next 205 sts, 3dc into next st (this should be central dc of 3dc-group); repeat from ✻ to end, omitting 3dc-corner-group on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(832 sts)*

ROUND 6 (RS FACING): Using **Navy** and **3.5mm hook**, join yarn into central dc of any 3dc-group made at corner by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 3dc into same st, ✻ 1dc into each next 207 sts, 3dc into next st (this should be central dc of 3dc-group); repeat from ✻ to end, omitting 3dc-corner-group on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. *(840 sts)*

Sew in all yarn ends.

Blocking and Washing

Blocking and pressing is the term used to describe the process of laying out your crochet pieces and then either steaming or moistening them with water in order to make sure they look neater and more even before you begin the process of joining your pieces together.

I think the term 'pressing' is extremely misleading as it implies that you should put something heavy onto your crochet and smooth out your stitches, in the same way that you would iron a crease out of a cotton shirt. In my time as a consultant and tutor I have seen many examples of knitted and crochet pieces that have quite literally been pressed beyond recognition. If you are not careful, pressing a crochet piece with a hot iron will destroy the fibres within your yarn and make your stitches flat and your yarn shiny – in some cases (when dealing with man-made fibres) you could even melt or burn your yarn. Once the fibres within your yarn are flattened they will not recover, much in the same way as you can't un-shrink something that you have washed too hot. Stylecraft Life DK is a fabulous yarn as it is hard wearing and easy to wash, however I would suggest that you avoid machine-washing this project if at all possible. The tumble and spin actions on many modern day washing machines can be quite destructive to hand made products and, if you put your completed crochet project in with other wash items, you could find that you get snags and catches caused by things like Velcro fastenings or clasps.

Once your project has been put together you may want to wash it. I find that washing a completed piece can make a really big difference to the finished appearance of it. Seams become flatter and stitches become more even. I always hand wash my knit and crochet items in a liquid specially formulated for that purpose, such as Woolite or Soak. It is wise to avoid biological liquids or powders as they can contain brighteners, which can destroy the yarn fibres, cause bobbles and shade changes.

Once the piece is washed I place it in a tied pillow case and give it a short spin in the washing machine to remove as much water as I can – don't use a really fast spin as this can cause the piece to stretch and throw in a couple of bath towels at the same time to minimize the amount of movement the project will have, the towels will also help absorb water. Remove the project from the pillowcase and lay your crochet project out on bath towel or large soft flat surface to dry. Don't place in direct sunlight or over a radiator and do not tumble dry. If you have a trampoline in the garden this is an excellent drying place, so long as you keep your pets well away!

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